

REMARKS

In the Action dated March 22, 2007, the Examiner has rejected Claims 14-16, 18-20, 23, 24, 27-29 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Vert et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,360,331. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed with the Examiner in the telephone conference on June 18, 2007, the claims of the present application are directed to a method, system and computer program product for enhancing the efficiency of operation of a distributed cluster data processing system. This is accomplished, as generally set forth within each of the independent claims, by defining "resource groups" within a subset of data processing systems within a cluster system and thereafter replicating configuration data for a particular highly available application only on each data processing system contained within the resource group of the cluster system. Thus, as described in the present specification, by pre-designating those data processing systems within a resource group as being responsible for managing a particular highly available application, and by only replicating configuration data necessary for that application within the data processing systems of that resource group, the cluster system does not require replication of that information throughout the entire cluster system. The courtesies extended to the undersigned attorney by the Examiner are greatly appreciated.

Vert et al. is directed to a system for maintaining configuration data in order to provide a redundant computer system by "tracking changes to an application configuration information, detecting those changes and taking a 'snapshot' of the data." That data is thereafter "written to a storage device shared by systems of the cluster, such as a quorum disk." (See the Abstract) Thereafter, if the system running that particular application fails, the application is turned over to a second system which must necessarily retrieve status and configuration information from the aforementioned quorum disk in order to reestablish the particular application.

Indeed, *Vert et al.* avoids the necessity of replicating data throughout an entire clustered data processing system; however, *Vert et al.* suffers from several noticeable shortfalls. Firstly, a failure of the quorum disk will render the application inoperative should the processing system running that

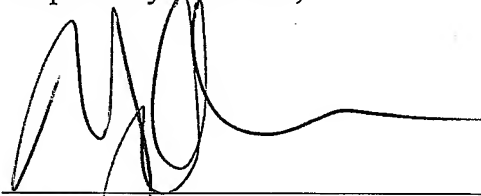
application fail. Secondly, in the event of a failure of the system running that application, the status and configuration for the application must be retrieved by a substitute system within the cluster from the quorum disk before the application can be restored.

In contrast, as set forth expressly within the claims of the present application, by predefining a "resource group" within a cluster system which is responsible for a particular highly available application and thereafter replicating the configuration data for that application only on data processing systems within that resource group, in the event of a failure of the system controlling the highly available application, a second data processing system within the resource group may quickly and efficiently begin operation of that highly available application in a manner not permitted by the system disclosed within *Vert et al.*

In summary, Applicant urges the Examiner to consider that *Vert et al.*, by disclosing that application configuration information is periodically mirrored and stored to a quorum disk, which is shared by all systems within a cluster, cannot be said to fairly suggest a system such as that set forth within the claims of the present application wherein a resource group is designated as a subset of data processing systems within a cluster and wherein configuration data for a particular highly available application is replicated only within the data processing systems within that resource group. Further, Applicant respectfully urges that the teaching of *Vert et al.* may not be said to suggest the system, method and computer program set forth within the claims of the present application for the reasons set forth above.

No extension of time for this response is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge any fee associated with an extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM Corporation Deposit Account 09-0447**.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AJD', written over a horizontal line.

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